



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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## **FCC INITIATES RULEMAKING TO ASSIGN EASY-TO-USE PHONE NUMBER FOR EXCAVATION NOTIFICATION**

Washington, DC – The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) today launched a rulemaking to simplify the nation's One Call notification system. The One Call system is designed for excavators and the general public to notify operators of underground facilities in advance of excavation activities to enhance homeland security and public safety, protect the environment, and prevent disruption of the nation's vital underground infrastructure. Currently, the seventy nationwide One Call centers, which serve different geographic areas, are generally accessed by dialing toll-free or local telephone numbers.

The *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* adopted today will consider possible nationwide abbreviated dialing arrangements to access One Call centers, as mandated by in the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002 (Pipeline Safety Act).

Damage from excavation activities can cause outages to our nation's energy supply, communications networks, law enforcement agencies, hospitals, air traffic control operations, emergency response providers, and military bases. The establishment of an abbreviated dialing code can be an effective and convenient way to ensure access to important facility location information to help prevent potentially fatal accidents, and increases the likelihood of more widespread and routine use of One Call services.

The North American Numbering Council (NANC) has analyzed the impact of employing various abbreviated dialing arrangements to implement the Pipeline Safety Act. The NANC recommended that the nationwide toll-free abbreviated dialing code be implemented using an N11 code, specifically 811.

In the *Notice* adopted today, the FCC seeks comment on the NANC's recommendation. Additionally, in the *Notice*, the FCC tentatively concludes that an abbreviated dialing code in the format of an easily recognizable code or other area code (e.g., 344) would be inconsistent with numbering resource optimization policies by potentially rendering eight million telephone numbers unusable.

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Docket No.: 92-105

Action by the Commission May 13, 2004, by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 04-111). Chairman Powell, Commissioners' Abernathy, Copps, Martin, and Adelstein; with Chairman Powell issuing a statement and Commissioner Copps issuing a statement.

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on the Commission's web site [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).